

Fresno Police Department

Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

November 20, 2008

Present: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Roz Clark, Harry Gill, Jesse McDonald, Carol Mills, Luke Raughley, Morgan Doizaki, Kelly Nelum, Paula Farris, Jim Poptanich, Gerry Bill (for R. Rangel), Enrique Reade, H. Spees, Peter Summers, David Tittle

Absent: Tom Gentile, Jimmy Bosquez, Michael Roth, Gordon Donoho, Jan Sangster, Mui Vuong

Guests: Deputy Chief Pat Farmer (for Chief Dyer), Lieutenant Dennis Montejano, Sergeant Brian Rogers, Staff Assistant Lissa Parker.

Call to Order: The meeting, held in the City Hall Annex Training Room, was called to order at 5:33 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from September 25, 2008 were approved with one minor correction

Opening Remarks:

None

Agenda Items:

Christmas Presence

Farmer: Particularly during the holidays, shopping centers provide a target-rich environment for criminals. For the past 7 or 8 years, the Police Department has had a really strong presence at the shopping centers. This year the big push is for the utilization of reserve officers and volunteers, as well as our video policing. We are hopeful that letting the criminals know that we're watching them will make them think twice. We will be holding our briefing at Manchester Mall at 1100 on Wednesday, the 26th.

Increase in Property Crimes

Farmer: The good news is that we have had a 23% decrease in homicides from last year, which equates to 11 fewer murders, and a 13.6% decrease in robberies. Domestic violence is down 7%. There is an 11.6% decrease in over all violent crimes. The bad news is that there has been a 5.8% increase in burglaries. Vehicle burglaries are up 246 from last year. Additionally, there are a lot of garage burglaries occurring in Northeast and Northwest. With the economy the way it is and with criminals not being prosecuted or remaining incarcerated, the increase may continue. We are attempting to educate the public, reminding them to keep their garage doors closed, their cars locked, and to take any valuables out of their cars. Garage door openers should not be left visible in cars either. And any doors from the garage to the house should remain locked.

Doizaki: Has the release of inmates contributed to the problem?

Farmer: Most likely. In addition, juvenile hall can't hold the juveniles picked up for this type of crime, so the juvenile burglars are all out wandering the streets. Hopefully, the knowledge that while the juvenile is on probation, we may perform a search at any time will work as a deterrent. Unfortunately, if probation and/or parole terms are shortened, we will be losing that ability earlier, thus losing a very powerful tool. As for those juveniles who are out roaming when they should be in school, we have regular ongoing truancy operations running in order to get kids back in school.

Summers: Fresno Unified School District will take referrals regarding truancy as well. The number is: 457-3340.

Montejano: The relationship between the crime spikes and the jail releases is one of the Chief's main items to tackle this year as President of Cal Chiefs. A number of efforts are underway toward prevention, including the truancy operations. If you can think of any ways in which you or your organization can become involved, we welcome your efforts.

Farmer: The Chief is looking very closely at what we can do better or differently regarding these property crimes. An increased involvement in video policing is probably one of those things.

Doizaki: Are our property crime numbers mirroring those in other cities?

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Farmer: It appears so. Property crime is a common concern throughout the state.

DUI Checkpoint Dedication

Farmer: We had our first checkpoint dedication about 3 weeks ago. The checkpoint was dedicated to 14 year-old Anita Cuadros, whose life was taken by a drunk driver on December 17, 2007. We put her photo up at the checkpoint. When you personalize these things, and show people rather than numbers, it will hopefully hit people that if they drive under the influence, they could be taking a life just like this one.

Fatal Collisions

Farmer: We had 27 fatal traffic collisions all year last year; 6 of those 27 were DUI-related. We have reached 27 fatal collisions so far this year.

I.A.C.P. Conference

Farmer: The conference had about 18,000 police chiefs from around the world. The vendors alone filled a space probably 15 times the size of our convention center. It provides the opportunity to find out what other departments are doing. Fresno is far above other departments in terms of technology, in being progressive and pro-active, in having specific strategic teams, in Skywatch and our video policing set up, and in numerous other things. Not only does L.A.P.D. think we are doing a better job in many ways, we have agencies in other countries looking to see what we're doing in Fresno.

ROUND TABLE:

Clark: New district boundaries?

Rogers: Will get maps sent out.

Clark: Two-day gang prevention summit on December 2nd and 3rd at the New Exhibit Hall.

Nelum: Regarding the influx of complaints coming from Brookhaven, I have a meeting set with DC Shaffer.

Title: Traffic going East on Nees and North on Blackstone is out of control in reference to running red lights.

Farmer: Will alert Captain Garner

Mills: Pertaining to Christmas Tree Lane-related traffic increase in area near shields and Van Ness, some sort of warning or caution sign alerting drivers to slow or backed up traffic, would be very helpful.

Farmer: Will alert Captain Garner of need for additional controls or warning.

Doizaki: There is a great deal of heroin flooding into Chinatown. The problem area seems to be around Tulare and F. Video policing cameras would probably help a lot. Happy's Market also continues to sell alcohol after 0200 a.m. Last, the City has just started to allow riding bicycles on the Fulton Mall. There are no speed limits or safety precautions posted. Bike officers are already starting to lose chases.

Farmer: Will speak to Captain Maroney and work on getting someone from Southwest to attend your meetings and work with you a little more closely.

Closing Remarks:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Next Meeting:

January 29, 2008